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HOUSE MEMORIAL 33

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE'S SUBMERGED RESOURCES CENTER BASED IN SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO, FOR ITS OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS WITH UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY.

WHEREAS, in 1975, national park service archaeologists were requested to study the effects of reservoir flooding on archaeological sites and their work became a model for federal agencies to use in reservoir mitigation work; and

WHEREAS, by 1980, the national park service recognized the importance of underwater cultural sites and created the submerged cultural resources unit, now called the submerged resources center, which is responsible for the care and nurturing of all park-held underwater sites, including shipwrecks, inundated Native American sites and landings, places where water and earth meet; and

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1 WHEREAS, the submerged resources center's team has
2 developed procedures for underwater mapping and video imaging
3 that have been acclaimed and adopted throughout the nation and
4 around the world; and

5 WHEREAS, much of their work is directed toward preserving
6 and restoring shipwrecks and other valuable sites so that these
7 sites can be visited by park visitors for years to come, saving
8 such sites from the ravages of treasure hunters; and

9 WHEREAS, like detectives trying to solve a murder, using
10 data including the ship's position, placement of artifacts and
11 the position of rigging, the team's archaeologists piece
12 together the story of a ship when it went down and their
13 studies offer insights into historical events and lead to
14 greater historical and anthropological comprehension; and

15 WHEREAS, the team leads projects throughout the United
16 States and its territories and often works on international
17 sites when requested; and

18 WHEREAS, the submerged resources center disseminates its
19 philosophy, which is "divers should take only photos and leave
20 only bubbles", and develops interpretive materials to enable
21 divers to better enjoy and understand shipwrecks; and

22 WHEREAS, the team calls the submerged resources center in
23 Santa Fe its home, as this landlocked site offers a central
24 location to a dive team that is required for duty in parks from
25 Alaska to Guam and Hawaii to the Dry Tortugas; and

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1 WHEREAS, the team, with the assistance of Senator
2 Domenici's office and the New Mexico natural history museum,
3 gave school children and veterans of World War II an
4 opportunity to witness the team's work, via live broadcast to
5 the New Mexico natural history museum from underwater in Pearl
6 Harbor, and, during the broadcast, the children and veterans
7 were able to speak directly to the teams's divers on the bottom
8 of Pearl Harbor as they examined the USS Arizona; and

9 WHEREAS, the center has also shown live broadcasts from
10 New Mexico's Rock lake and the Blue Hole in Santa Rosa; and

11 WHEREAS, the center designed an underwater dredge to
12 remove tons of sediment clogging the natural artery feeding
13 over three thousand gallons of water a minute to one of the top
14 ten diving locations in the United States, the Blue Hole, and
15 has worked with and trained New Mexico state police divers in
16 removal operations, thereby enhancing the natural beauty of the
17 area and ensuring the economic prosperity of the business
18 community of Santa Rosa; and

19 WHEREAS, the center has provided assistance to the New
20 Mexico state police by providing sophisticated underwater
21 technology to assist them in searching for victims of drowning
22 tragedies and murder; and

23 WHEREAS, the center ran a shipwreck study seminar in 1981,
24 in partnership with the school of American research in Santa
25 Fe, which resulted in the publication by the university of New

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1 Mexico press of *Shipwreck Anthropology*, a work recognized to
2 set new standards in theory and methods for shipwreck
3 archaeology; and

4 WHEREAS, other major research projects include a shipwreck
5 survey of ten major vessels at Isle Royale national park; a
6 survey of ten radiation-laden shipwrecks of the Bikini Atoll
7 nuclear tests, including the USS Saratoga; major underwater
8 surveys of the Hawaiian Islands and Palau; an underwater survey
9 of the Aleutian Islands in partnership with the United States
10 navy pacific fleet; a survey of the wreck Brig Somers off of
11 Veracruz, in partnership with the Mexican government;
12 underwater surveys of Guam, Truk Ponape, Kosrae and the
13 Marshall Islands in Micronesia; a shipwreck survey of Dry
14 Tortugas national park; and uncovering and evaluating the
15 confederate submarine H. L. Hunley off Charleston harbor; and

16 WHEREAS, the center was the primary contributor of
17 material on underwater archaeology to the congressional office
18 of technology assessment's report on prehistoric preservation
19 technologies; and

20 WHEREAS, for thirty years, under the leadership of retired
21 chief, Daniel J. Lenihan, and the current chief, Larry Murphy,
22 the submerged resources center in Santa Fe has built a
23 reputation for innovation and technological sophistication in
24 submerged resources research and is an internationally
25 recognized center of excellence for underwater archaeology;

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Santa Fe's submerged resources center be recognized for its invaluable contributions to the preservation of prehistoric and historic sites and for its contributions to scientific procedures and technologies in underwater archaeology; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the submerged resources center and its scientists, divers, staff and volunteers be honored as "stewards for an international heritage"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the members of the submerged resources center.